

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03187 101010Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 HA-05 AID-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-03
/088 W

-----020513 101013Z /11

O 100945Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8244
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3187

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNRWA XF JO PORG AORG LE AU
SUBJ: UNRWA HEADQUARTERS RELOCATION

REF: STATE 146870

1. MR. A. J. BROWN, ACTING COMMISSIONER-GENERAL OF
UNRWA IN BEIRUT, SENT LETTER TO CHARGE MORNING JUNE 10
ENCLOSING ADVANCE COPY OF PRESS RELEASE RELATING TO
REDEPLOYMENT OF UNRWA'S CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION. LETTER
STATES PRESS RELEASE WILL BE ISSUED TO AGENCIES ON JUNE
13. AND ASKS THAT ADVANCE COPY BE TREATED AS CONFIDENTIAL
INFORMATION UNTIL THAT TIME. TEXT OF RELEASE FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN TEXT: "THE COMMISSIONER-GENERAL OF THE UNITED
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NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES
IN THE NEAR EAST (UNRWA), THOMAS W. MCELHINEY, CONFIRMED
TODAY THAT THE AGENCY'S HEADQUARTERS WILL BE RELOCATED.
THIS HAD BEEN DECIDED IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN EFFECTIVE
MANAGEMENT OF THE AGENCY'S OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE AREA.

"CONSULTATIONS WERE UNDERTAKEN WITH THE GOVERNMENTS

OF AUSTRIA, JORDAN AND THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING ADEQUATE OFFICE SPACE, FACILITIES AND SERVICES FOR THE HEADQUARTERS. FOLLOWING UPON THESE CONSULTATIONS, AND IN THE LIGHT OF THE FACILITIES OFFERED, PART OF UNRWA HEADQUARTERS, INCLUDING THE COMMISSIONER-GENERAL'S OFFICE, WILL BE RELOCATED TO VIENNA AND OTHER ELEMENTS, INCLUDING THE UNRWA/UNESCO INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION, WILL BE MOVED TO AMMAN. THE COMMISSIONER-GENERAL HAS ACCEPTED THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT'S OFFER TO PROVIDE OFFICE SPACE FREE OF CHARGE, AND IT IS HOPED THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF JORDAN CONCERNING THE REQUIRED FACILITIES WILL BE SATISFACTORILY CONCLUDED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. A LIMITED NUMBER OF HEADQUARTERS STAFF WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO VIENNA IMMEDIATELY, WITH THE REMAINDER TO FOLLOW IN ABOUT SIX WEEKS. THOSE BEING REASSIGNED TO AMMAN WILL MOVE WHEN THE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

"THE COMMISSIONER-GENERAL UNDERLINED THAT THE MOVE OF HEADQUARTERS FROM BEIRUT WOULD NOT AFFECT UNRWA'S SERVICES TO PALESTINE REFUGEES IN LEBANON. SUCH SERVICES ARE PROVIDED THROUGH THE LOCAL FIELD OFFICE, AS IS ALSO THE CASE WITH REGARD TO ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC, EAST JORDAN, THE WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP.

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"THE COMMISSIONER-GENERAL IS MOST GRATEFUL TO THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED FOR THE EFFORT WHICH THEY HAVE MADE TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE FACILITIES. HE HAS ALSO EXPRESSED HIS SINCERE GRATITUDE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON FOR THE ASSISTANCE WHICH IT HAS GIVEN TO THE UNRWA HEADQUARTERS OVER THE YEARS. END TEXT.
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